CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) A method of providing user options in operation of a video system, comprising:

displaying an image on a display screen, the image being associated with a current one of a plurality of operational contexts;

detecting actuation of a pop-up option palette control; and

upon detecting actuation of the pop-up option palette control, overlaying the image on the display screen with a pop-up option palette displaying a plurality of selectable user options, the options having functions associated with the current operational context.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context is selected from the plurality of operational contexts consisting of comprising at least two of the following: a home context, a TV context, an Email context, an events context, a settings & tips context, a movies context, an online context, a shortcut to services context, a program guide context and a favorites context.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein one of the user selectable options has a function of providing help for the current operational context.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context comprises one of a home context, a program guide context, a TV context, an Email context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the functions of adding a current channel to a favorites list, printing to a printer, and providing a shortcut to services.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context comprises one of a settings & tips context and an events context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the functions of providing a shortcut to services and printing to a printer.

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6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context comprises a movies context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the functions of playing a movie, rewinding a movie, forwarding a movie and stopping the functions of playing, rewinding and forwarding.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context comprises an online context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the functions of adding a page to a favorites list and initiating a keyword search.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context comprises a shortcut to services context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational context.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3 claim 1, wherein the current operational context comprises a shortcut to services context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational context.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context comprises a settings & tips context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the function of showing the user operational tips.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context comprises a settings & tips context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the function of permitting the user to change operational settings.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context comprises a favorites context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the functions of choosing a group of favorites, moving to a previous favorites group,

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moving to a next favorites group, changing favorites and adding a channel to a favorites group.

13. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a subsequent actuation of the pop-up option palette control; and

upon detecting the subsequent actuation of the pop-up option palette control, removing the overlaying the image from the display screen.

14. (Original)   A storage media storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out the steps of:

displaying an image on a display screen, the image being associated with a current one of a plurality of operational contexts;

detecting actuation of a pop-up option palette control; and

upon detecting actuation of the pop-up option palette control, overlaying the image on the display screen with a pop-up option palette displaying a plurality of selectable user options, the options having functions associated with the current operational context.

15. (Currently Amended)   The storage media according to claim 14, wherein the current operational context is selected from the plurality of operational contexts consisting of comprising at least two of the following: a home context, a TV context, an Email context, an events context, a settings & tips context, a movies context, an online context, a shortcut to services context, a program guide context and a favorites context.

16. (Original)   The storage media according to claim 14, further comprising: detecting a subsequent actuation of the pop-up option palette control; and upon detecting the subsequent actuation of the pop-up option palette control, removing the overlaying image from the display screen.

17. (Original)   A set-top box, comprising:

a programmed processor;

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a memory device storing an operating system, a browser program and a pop-up option palette program to operate on the programmed processor;

means for displaying an image on a video display, the image being associated with one of a plurality of operational contexts;

means for receiving user commands;

and wherein the pop-up option palette program operates to carry out the process of:

detecting receipt of a pop-up option palette command; and

upon detecting receipt of the pop-up option palette command, overlaying the image on the display screen with a pop-up option palette displaying a plurality of selectable user options, the options having functions associated with the current operational context.

18. (Currently Amended)   The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational context is selected from the plurality of operational contexts consisting of comprising at least two of the following: a home context, a TV context, an Email context, an events context, a settings & tips context, a movies context, an online context, a shortcut to services context, a program guide context and a favorites context.

19. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein one of the user selectable options has a function of providing help for the current operational context.

20. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational context comprises one of a home context, a program guide context, a TV context, an Email context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the functions of adding a current channel to a favorites list, printing to a printer, and providing a shortcut to services.

21. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational context comprises one of a settings & tips context and an events context; and wherein the

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user selectable options provide at least the functions of providing a shortcut to services and printing to a printer.

22. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational context comprises a movies context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the functions of playing a movie, rewinding a movie, forwarding a movie and stopping the functions of playing, rewinding and forwarding.

23. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational context comprises an online context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the functions of adding a page to a favorites list and initiating a keyword search.

24. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational context comprises a shortcut to services context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational context.

25. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 24, wherein the current operational context comprises a shortcut to services context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational context.

26. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational context comprises a settings & tips context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the function of showing the user operational tips.

27. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational context comprises a settings & tips context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the function of permitting the user to change operational settings.

28. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational context comprises a favorites context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at

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least the functions of choosing a group of favorites, moving to a previous favorites group, moving to a next favorites group, changing favorites and adding a channel to a favorites group.

29. (Original)   The set-top box according to claim 17, further comprising:
    detecting a subsequent receipt of the pop-up option palette command; and
    upon detecting the subsequent receipt of the pop-up option palette command, removing the overlaying image from the display screen.

30. (Currently Amended)   A set-top box, comprising:
    a programmed processor;
    a memory device storing an operating system, a browser program and a pop-up option palette program to operate on the programmed processor;
    means for displaying an image on a video display, the image being associated with one of a plurality of operational contexts;
    means for receiving user commands;
    and wherein the pop-up option palette program operates to carry out the process of:
        detecting receipt of a pop-up option palette command;
        upon detecting receipt of the pop-up option palette command, overlaying the image on the display screen with a pop-up option palette displaying a plurality of selectable user options, the options having functions associated with the current operational context;
        wherein the current operational context is selected from the plurality of operational contexts consisting of comprising at least a home context, a TV context, an Email context, an events context, a settings & tips context, a movies context, an online context, a shortcut to services context, a program guide context and a favorites context;
        wherein each of the plurality of user selectable options has a function of providing help for the current operational context;

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wherein if the current operational context comprises one of a home context, a program guide context, a TV context, and an Email context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of adding a current channel to a favorites list, printing to a printer, and providing a shortcut to services;

wherein if the current operational context comprises one of a settings & tips context and an events context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of providing a shortcut to services and printing to a printer;

wherein if the current operational context comprises a movies context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of playing a movie, rewinding a movie, forwarding a movie and stopping the functions of playing, rewinding and forwarding;

wherein if the current operational context comprises an online context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of adding a page to a favorites list and initiating a keyword search;

wherein if the current operational context comprises a shortcut to services context; then user selectable options provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational context;

wherein if the current operational context comprises a shortcut to services context; then the user selectable options provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational context;

wherein if the current operational context comprises a settings & tips context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of showing the user operational tips and permitting the user to change operational settings; and

wherein if the current operational context comprises a favorites context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of choosing a group of favorites, moving to a previous favorites group, moving to a next favorites group, changing favorites and adding a channel to a favorites group;

detecting a subsequent receipt of the pop-up option palette command; and

upon detecting the subsequent receipt of the pop-up option palette command, removing the overlaying the image from the display screen.

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